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## OBITUARY.

NATHANIEL S. SHALER.—Professor Shaler died at his home in Cambridge on April 10. He was born in Campbell County, Kentucky, in 1841, and at the age of eighteen was sent to Harvard, where he entered the Lawrence Scientific School. It was not long before his quick, keen, and versatile mind attracted notice. He studied zoology under Louis Agassiz, graduated in 1862, served in the Federal Army for two years and then returned, much broken in health, to Harvard, where he was appointed Instructor in Palæontology, and in 1869 became full Professor. He held this Chair to his death, but its title was changed in 1888 to Geology. He was one of the first American men of science to accept the doctrine of evolution, and Darwinism speedily prevailed at the Peabody Museum after 1873, when Mr. Shaler began to have a free hand there. He became Dean of the Lawrence Scientific School in 1891, and under his direction the school has grown rapidly both in numbers and efficiency. He devoted the last months of his life to the organization of the Graduate School of Applied Science, made possible through the bequest that the late Gordon McKay, at his suggestion, left to Harvard.

Mr. Shaler was a man of remarkable activity and productivity. In Harvard he was known as an able administrator, as a lecturer of unique gifts, and as a friend who kindled the interest, admiration, and affection of the students. His course in geology, known as Natural History 4, was the most popular in Harvard, and in his day it was taken by over 7,000 of the undergraduates. One of his students, now a Professor of Geography, writes to the BULLETIN that "he was tremendously inspiring to all his students, and one of the select among those teachers who can really teach. He was versatile, suggestive, and human, and a gentleman of inborn courtesy." Besides his popular lectures he always conducted one or more advanced courses in palæontology, directed the summer school, carried the growing responsibilities of his deanship, was often busy with investigations and the preparation of reports for the U. S. Geological Survey, served seven years as Director of the Geological Survey of Kentucky and as a member of Massachusetts State Committees on Highways, etc., was consulted as an expert by many mining companies, and still had time to write voluminously and well. His literary products included some 25 or 30 volumes, besides unnumbered articles in magazines and scientific papers.